



Steve Connolly  
Executive Director

## THE MAINE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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### Dear Parents of the Maine Community,

On behalf of the Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (MECDHH/GBSD), we are reaching out to share an important opportunity: we currently have several vacant Board seats, and we encourage interested community members to consider serving.

All Board members are appointed by the Governor of Maine for three-year terms, and our meetings occur monthly in a hybrid format—both in person and via Zoom—to support broad participation. Board service is a meaningful act of volunteerism that directly contributes to the educational success and well-being of students across our state.

Under Chapter 646, Board members hold important responsibilities. These include preparing for and participating in monthly Board meetings, attending two in-person meetings each year (one of which is our annual retreat), and reviewing all materials in advance so that discussions and decisions are well-informed. Board members also serve on two committees that meet as needed to address strategic, financial, educational, and community-related matters. This work is collaborative and grounded in the belief that strong leadership helps ensure the needs of all students are met.

We currently have several openings that reflect the diversity of our broader community. One seat is designated for a parent of a student who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing; another is reserved for a Deaf community member. Additional vacancies are available for representatives of the general public—individuals who bring varied perspectives, professional expertise, and lived experiences. Two student seats are also open: one for a high school student connected to MECDHH/GBSD services who attends a **host site**, and one for a high school student connected to MECDHH/GBSD who attends a **home site**. Student voices provide essential insight into daily educational experiences and help guide our work.

Board service is not limited to those with personal ties to the Deaf or Hard of Hearing community. The Board benefits from hearing all voices—parents, educators, professionals, students, and residents from every part of Maine. If you value education, believe in the importance of public service, and want to contribute to the success of students statewide, we invite you to consider applying.

### How to Apply or Learn More

Those interested in serving may contact the MECDHH/GBSD Executive Director's Office for additional information or guidance on the application process. For questions, please reach out to [kim.spencer@mecdhh.org](mailto:kim.spencer@mecdhh.org) or call (207) 781-6284.

Thank you for your interest in supporting MECDHH/GBSD and the students and families we serve.

Sincerely,

*Anna Perna*

**MECDHH/GBSD Board Recruitment and Retention Chair**